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VERBATIM TEXT

Following is transcript report by CBS Bonn correspondent Daniel Shorr heard here eight a.m. (EST) March 17:

Details have reached me of Ambassador Llewellyn Thompson's three-hour talk with Khrushchev last week in Siberia, which indicates Khrushchev is pressing for agreement on Berlin but not insisting on early summit or meeting with President Kennedy. Thompson in conveying Kennedy's message did not mention Berlin issue, but Soviet Premier then raised it, and much of subsequent conversation was devoted to it. Khrushchev said he would not wait indefinitely for action, but avoided setting any time limit. He said separate peace treaty with East Germany might include his plan for free city of West Berlin, so-called, and he seemed surprised when Thompson countered that West Berlin's present status could also be written into such a treaty.

Khrushchev told Thompson Berlin issue is vital to East Germany but not, he said, to America or Russia. Said Khrushchev: Union does not need another 2 million people."

But:

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Talearaphic transmission and

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But Thompson left no doubt about America's stand. Said Thompson to Khrushchev: "United States in fully committed defend West Berlin; American honor and prestige are at stake."

Khrushchev did seem to accept Kennedy idea of talking through diplomatic channels for a while. He did not ask for early meeting with Kennedy, didn't seem to be particularly concerned about early summit. And at lunch Khrushchev offered toast to successful use of diplomatic channels.

One reason for all this may be Premier's preoccupation with internal matters. He is returning Moscow from his current whistle-stop tour at end next week, but plans spend most of next month in Soviet Central Asia, working, he told Thompson, on new program for Communist Party Congress in October, program to be published in August.

This is CBS News, Bonn.

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